AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-3. (CANCEL)

4. (**WITHDRAWN-CURRENTLY AMENDED**): A method for detection of Yersinia pestis in a sample comprising:

(i) providing a sample;

(ii) ~~forming a mixture by adding the sample to a solution containing at least one series of nucleotide sequences having a forward primer, a reverse primer and a hybridization probe selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7; 9, 10, 11; 13, 14, 15;17, 18, 19; 21, 22, 23; under conditions suitable for isolating genomic DNA for amplification using PCR and under conditions suitable for hybridization with said at least one series of nucleotide sequences; and~~

~~(iii) subjecting the mixture to PCR~~ using a PCR assay to detect the composition of claim 8 in the sample, wherein the detection of SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:8 in the sample indicates the presence of Yersinia pestis in the sample.

5. (**WITHDRAWN**): The method of Claim 4 wherein said PCR comprises standard PCR.

6. (**WITHDRAWN**): The method of Claim 5, wherein said PCR comprises fluorogenic 5' nuclease PCR assay.

7. (**WITHDRAWN-CURRENTLY AMENDED**): ~~A method comprising~~ The method of claim 4, wherein

~~(i) providing a sample;~~

~~(ii) forming a mixture by adding the sample to a solution containing at least one series of nucleotide sequences having a forward primer, a reverse primer and a hybridization probe selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7; 9, 10, 11; 13, 14, 15;17, 18, 19; 21, 22, 23;~~

said assay is performed using a first forward primer consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, a first reverse primer consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, and a first hybridization probe consisting of SEQ ID

NO:3 for detection of SEQ ID NO:4 and using a second forward primer consisting of SEQ ID NO:5, a second reverse primer consisting of SEQ ID NO:6, and a second hybridization probe consisting of SEQ ID NO:7 for detection of SEQ ID NO:8. ;

~~under conditions suitable for isolating genomic DNA for amplification using PCR and under conditions suitable for hybridization with said at least one series of nucleotide sequences; and~~

~~(iii)~~ and detecting the presence of ~~at least one Amplicon sequence~~ SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:8 by flurogenic 5' nuclease PCR assay, wherein the presence of ~~said one Amplicon sequence~~ SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:8 indicates the ~~existence existence~~ presence of *Yersinia pestis* in the sample.

8. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A composition comprising a first isolated polynucleotide and a second isolated polynucleotide, wherein the first isolated polynucleotide ~~comprises~~ consists of SEQ ID NO:4 or a full-length complement thereof and the second polynucleotide ~~comprises~~ consists of SEQ ID NO:8 or a full-length complement thereof.

9. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The composition of claim 8, comprising at least one further isolated polynucleotide ~~comprising~~ consisting of a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 12, 16, 20, and 24 or a full-length complement thereof.

10. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The composition of claim 9, comprising six isolated polynucleotides each ~~comprising~~ consisting of one of SEQ ID NOS: 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, and 24 or full-length complements thereof.

11. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A set of oligonucleotides comprising (a) a polynucleotide fragment of each of the isolated polynucleotides of the composition of claim 8, wherein said fragments are ~~12 to 50~~ 19 to 33 nucleotides in length, or (b) full-length complements of (a).

12. **(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)** The set of oligonucleotides of claim 11, wherein said set consists of forward primers and reverse primers and hybridization probes.

13. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The set of oligonucleotides of claim 11, wherein each oligonucleotide ~~comprises~~ consists of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7.

14. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A set of oligonucleotides comprising (a) a polynucleotide fragment of each of the isolated polynucleotides of the composition of claim 10, wherein said fragments are ~~12 to 50~~ 19 to 33 nucleotides in length, or (b) full-length complements of (a).

15. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The set of oligonucleotides of claim 14, wherein each oligonucleotide ~~comprises~~ consists of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 23.

16. (CANCELED)

17. (CANCELED)